

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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| COUNTRY | Czechoslovakia | REPORT | |
| SUBJECT | Military Units and Installations in Presov | DATE DISTR. | 13 August 1954 |
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Jan Jiskra Barracks:

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- a. These barracks cover an area of 600 x 400 meters; they are located east of the Presov-Kosice highway about 2.5 km. from the center of the town, and south of the Presov-Kapusany railroad line. The barracks are surrounded by fields. The main gate is about 20 meters from the Presov-Kosice highway.
- b. The Regional Military Command, the Garrison Administration, and an infantry unit consisting of two battalions and two companies, are stationed at the barracks.
- c. The regional and garrison commanding officer in 1952 was Lt. Col. Otto WAGNER.

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2. Artillery barracks:¹

- a. The artillery barracks cover an area of 400 x 250 meters; they are located southeast of the center of the town on the eastern side of the road leading from the Jiskra Barracks to the Vysni Hustok town-market. The main gate is on the west. In front of the barracks is a park. The barracks yard is grassy, with sand paths. The area is surrounded by a 3-m.-high wall with an iron fence in the front.
- b. A number of German type guns, caliber 100 mm., towed by Studebaker or Tatra 111 trucks, were observed at the barracks.

3. Stefanik Barracks:

- a. These barracks cover an area of 300 x 200 meters; they are located in the north-west outskirts of town, about 1 km. east of the Presov-Sabinov railroad line, and about 2.5 km. from the center of the town. The main gate is on the east. The barracks stand in fields and are surrounded by a wire fence mounted on concrete.

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "F")

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pillars. All open spaces in the barracks are grassy.

- b. Since 1952 a paratroop unit² consisting of three companies has been stationed in the barracks. The age of paratroopers ranged from 18 to 20 years. Their ground training took place on the small-arms range which was a part of the garrison training grounds. Jumping was performed partly at the Presov airfield and partly at Kosice. Dakota-type aircraft were used for jumps.

4. Ammunition dump;³

- a. The dump is located northwest of Presov, in the vicinity of Maly Saris, in an area 500 x 400 m. large. The area is surrounded by a wire fence. The site of the dump is slightly raised. The main entrance is on the north. West of the entrance is a brick-built guard house. In the middle of the site are two identical barracks made of corrugated iron, each 100 x 50 meters in size. Underneath them are two floors with stored ammunition. In every corner of the dump enclosure is a sentry box with a searchlight.
- b. The ammunition dump is guarded by members of the infantry unit stationed at the Jiskra Barracks. The strength of the guard is 14 men during the daytime and 26 men during night.

5. Small-arms shooting range:

The shooting range is located in Bokrut Forest about 4.5 km. southwest of the town; it occupies an area of 1,000 x 150 meters. It is used only by units of the Presov garrison. Maximum range is 700 meters.

Legend to the map and sketches. (Letters refer to features of the Enclosure and to corresponding annexes; numbers to features of each annex):

A. Jan Jiskra Barracks. (Annex A):

1. Main entrance
2. Guard room
3. 3-story building. Officers' quarters, guard room, and prison
- 4-a 3-story wing. Garrison administration offices on the ground floor; Regional Command offices on the 2nd and 3rd floor
- 4-b 3-story building. Officers' mess and kitchen on ground and 2nd floor; EM's billets on the 3rd floor
5. Brick barrack, billets
6. Brick barrack, billets
7. EM mess and canteen
- 8, 9, and 10. Wooden barracks, billets
11. Regional military hospital, 3-story building
12. Entrance for civilian hospital employees
13. Back entrance to the barracks
14. Corrugated-iron equipment store
15. Wall round the western and southern part of the barracks
16. Wire fence round the northern and eastern part of the barracks.

B. Artillery barracks. (Annex B):

1. Main entrance
2. Guard booth
3. Park in front of the barracks
4. Guard house, brick-built
5. Billets
6. Billets
7. EM mess hall
- 7-a Billets, equipment store, cinema and canteen
8. Cinema and canteen
- 9, 10, 11. Former stables, now empty
12. Wall, 3 meters high
13. SNB station

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C. Stefanik Barracks: (Annex C):

1. Main entrance
2. Guard house
3. Billets
4. Storehouse
5. Stables, empty
6. Stables, empty
7. Storehouse
8. Garages
9. Garages
10. Garages
11. Fence
12. Playgrounds in front of the barracks.

D. Ammunition dump near Maly Saris (Annex D with legend)

E. Small-arms shooting range

F. Courthouse and the Regional prison

Comments:

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1. An artillery unit might be stationed in Presov although no such unit is on record. However, a field gun of 100-mm. caliber does not sound plausible.
2. A paratroop unit, probably a battalion, has been reported repeatedly by other sources and it is considered as confirmed.
3. The inside description of the ammunition dump does not seem logical and it is not believed reliable.

The report does not seem to give a reliable description of units stationed in Presov. The existence of a sizable infantry unit is very doubtful because, according to confirmed reports, the 20th Infantry Regiment moved in Autumn 1950 from Presov to Michalovce and no reports indicated that another infantry unit moved into Presov. A remote possibility that a part, perhaps a battalion, of the 20th Inf. Regt. remained in Presov cannot be excluded.

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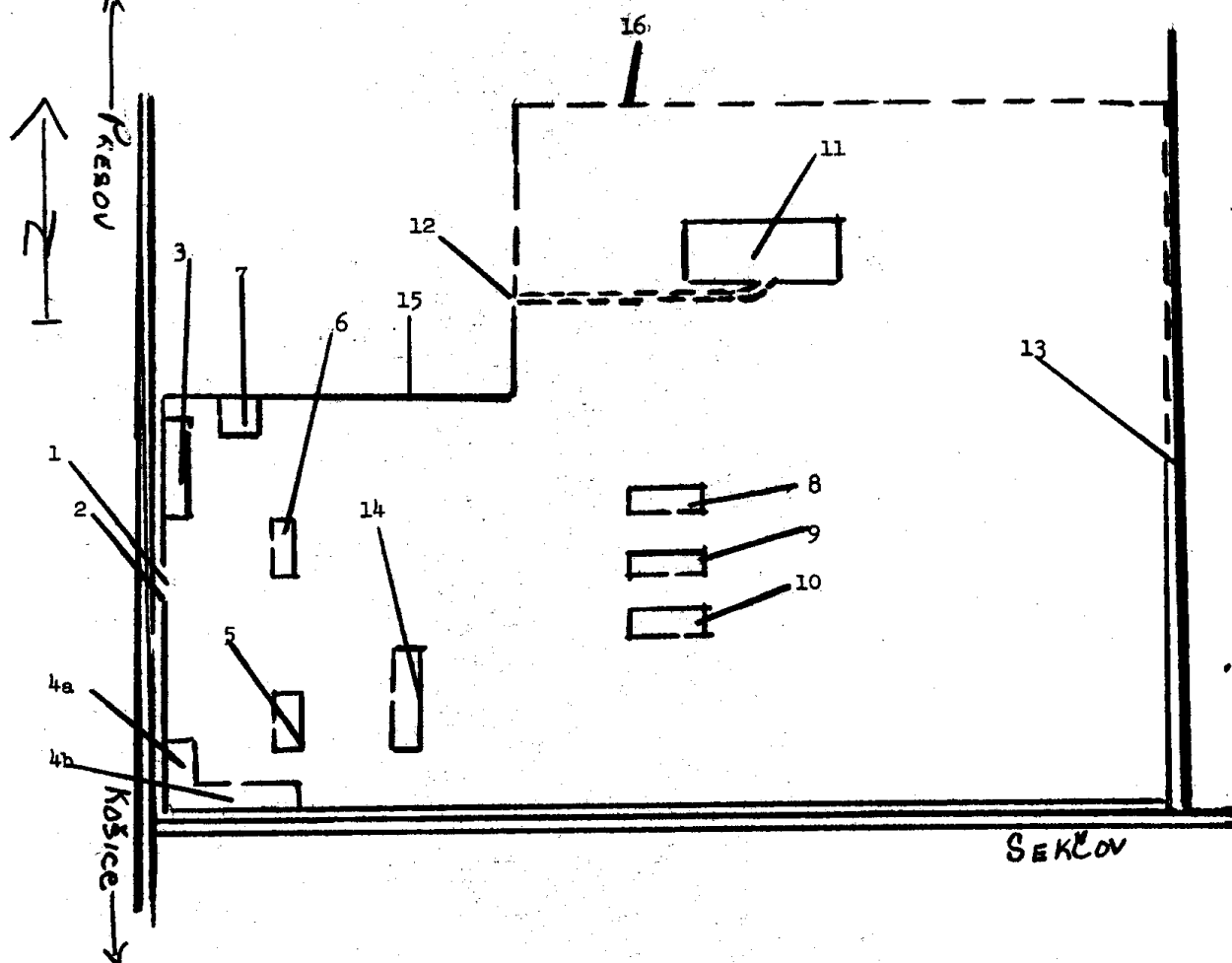
Annex A

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Jiskra Barracks, Presov

Scale 1:4000



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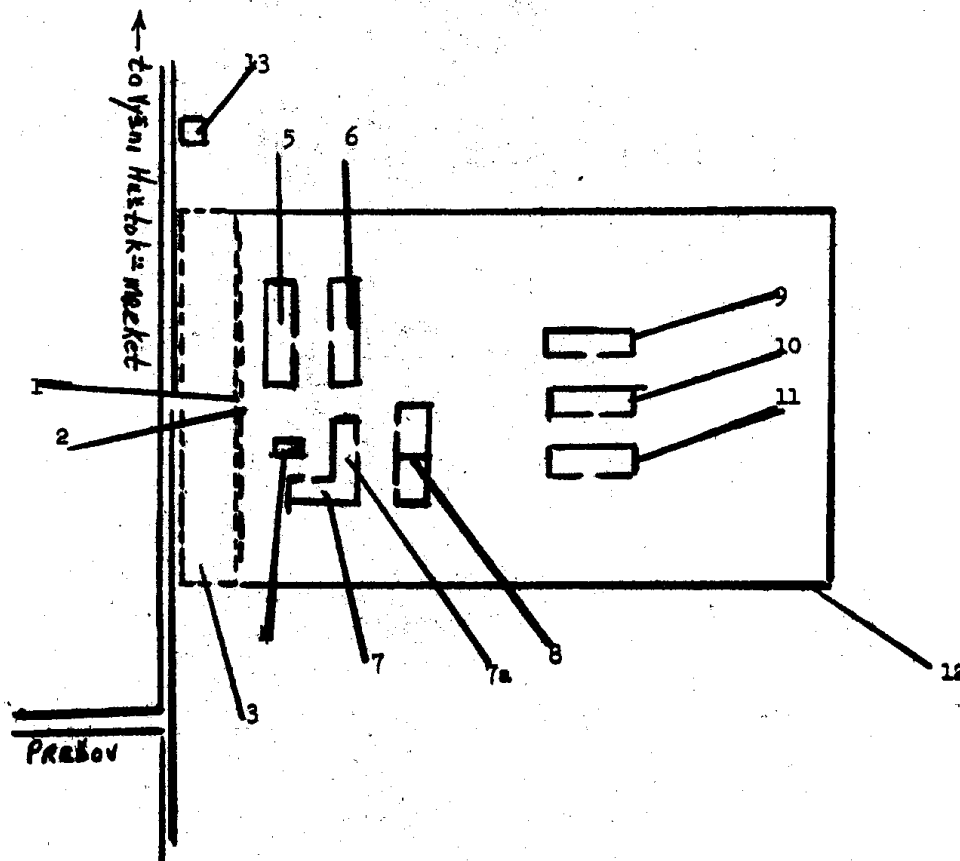


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Annex B

Artillery Barracks in Prešov
Scale 1: 4000



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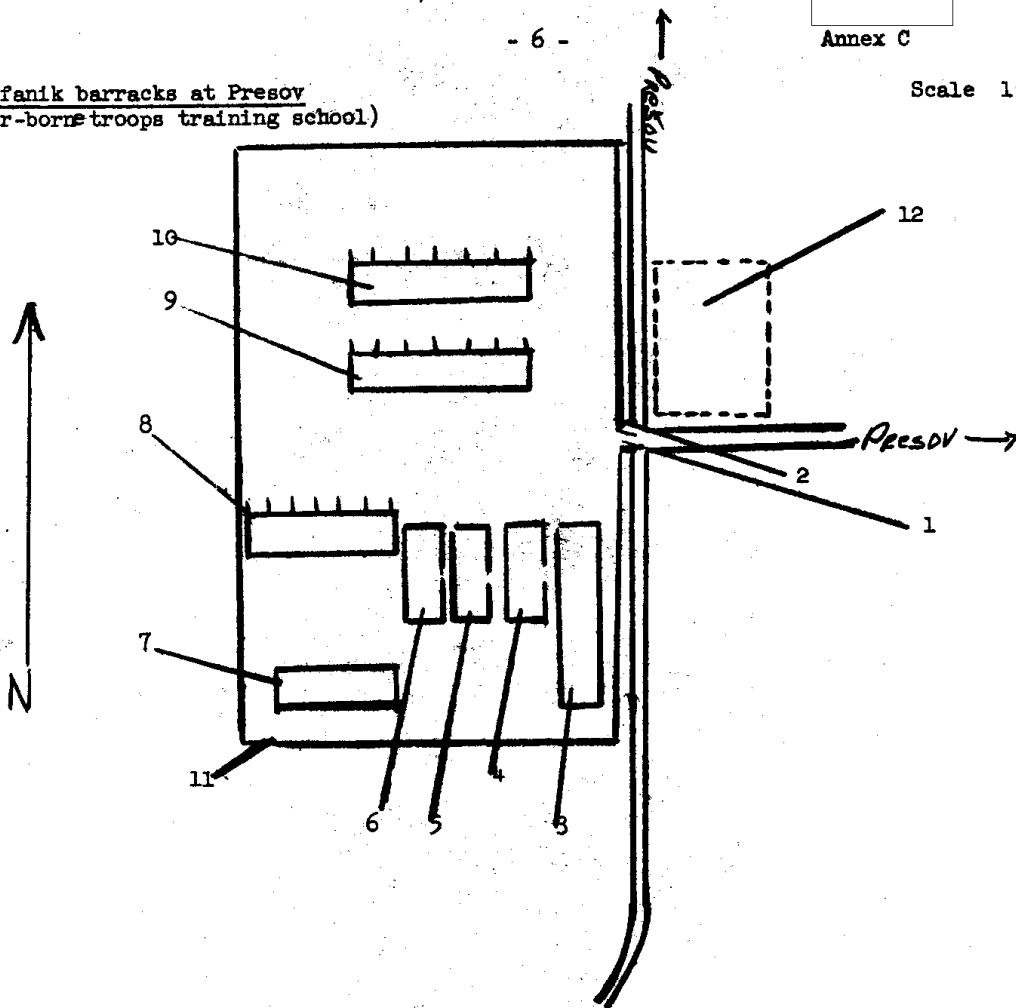
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Annex C

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Stefanik barracks at Presov
(Air-borne troops training school)

Scale 1:3000



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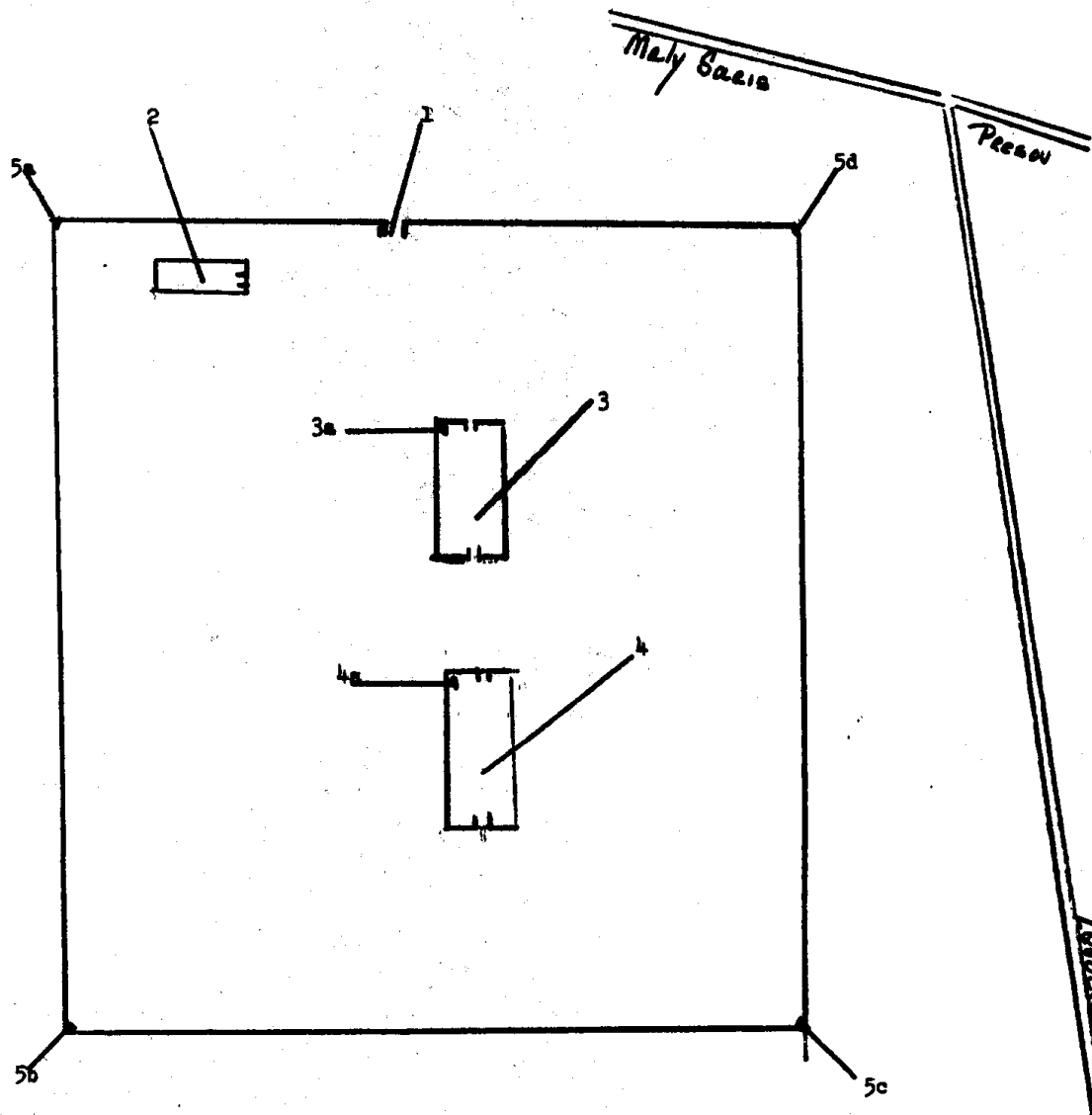
Annex D

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Ammunition supply point Presov-Maly Saria

Scale 1:4000



Legend:

- 1. Main entrance
- 2. Guard house
- 3. Storehouse
- 4. Storehouse
- 5 a,b,c,d. Sentry boxes with searchlights

3a and 4a are not explained.

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